

## **REMARKS**

The drawings have been amended as suggested. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 stands rejected under § 112. The examiner asserts that Fig. 6 is not consistent with claim 4 because the entry “b4” should be “L1=3” instead of “L1=2”. Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

In Fig. 6, since a journal a3 does not exist, the serial number of a journal b3 is L1=2. Also, since a journal a4 does not exist, the preceding number L1=2 is stored (specification page 26, lines 6-25). In view of the above, the numerical values of Fig. 6 are correct. In other words, the immediately preceding number of the journal b3 is “2” (L1=2), and the immediately preceding number of the journal b4 is also “2” (L1=2). Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 112 rejection is requested.

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 8 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4, and claims 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claim 4 was not rejected on the basis of prior art, and applicant believes that claim 4 is directed to patentable subject matter. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant believes that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicant's attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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